

Additional Information

PERT is a division of Community Research Foundation (CRF), a San Diego nonprofit organization that exclusively serves persons living with serious mental illness. CRF offers 26 other programs to the community.

Additional information about CRF services, research, or employment and training opportunities can be viewed at www.comresearch.org.

To access PERT services, please call 911 or your local law enforcement agency.

The PERT Administrative Office does not have crisis counselors on staff or the ability to dispatch a PERT unit to respond to a psychiatric crisis. For these situations, please call 911.

PERT Administrative Office: 619.276-8112
Fax: 619. 276-8230



CRF Corporate Office

1202 Morena Blvd, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92110
Phone: 619.275-0822
Fax: 619.275-1422
www.comresearch.org

PERT Law Enforcement Partners

The following law enforcement agencies participate in the PERT program. All law enforcement agencies may participate in PERT training. To request PERT assistance, please call 911 or your local law enforcement agency.

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| Carlsbad Police Department | 760.931-2100 |
| Chula Vista Police Department | 619.691-5151 |
| Coronado Police Department | 619.522-7350 |
| El Cajon Police Department | 619.579-3311 |
| Escondido Police Department | 760.839-4722 |
| La Mesa Police Department | 619.667-1400 |
| National City Police Department | 619.336-4411 |
| Oceanside Police Department | 760.435-4900 |
| San Diego Harbor Police Department | 619.686-6272 |
| San Diego Police Department | 619.531-2000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Division• Eastern Division• Emergency Medical Services - RAP Program• Homeless Outreach Team• Mid-City Division• Northeastern Division• Northern Division• Northwestern Division• Southeastern Division• Southern Division• Western Division | |
| San Diego Sheriff's Department | 858.565-5200 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4S Ranch Substation• Alpine Station• Fallbrook Substation• Imperial Beach Substation• Lakeside Substation• Lemon Grove Substation• North Coastal Station• Poway Station• Ramona Substation• Rancho San Diego Station• Rural• San Marcos Station• Santee Station• Valley Center/Pauma Substation• Vista Substation | |

PERT



**PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM**
San Diego County

In partnership with law enforcement
and San Diego County HHS

Purpose

PERT is a law enforcement-based mental health crisis intervention program that pairs a licensed mental health professional with a law enforcement officer/deputy. Riding together in a patrol car, they provide compassionate crisis intervention to persons living with mental illness who come into contact with law enforcement. The goal is to safely and effectively de-escalate crisis situations and provide appropriate referrals and offer the least restrictive level of care avoiding unnecessary hospitalization.

PERT is recognized nationally as a “best practice” model, allowing law enforcement and clinicians to work together to provide the best options for persons living with mental illness. PERT is funded by the County of San Diego -- Behavioral Health Services as well as the Public Safety Group.

Service Availability

PERT responds throughout San Diego County. Although PERT services are not yet available 24/7, coverage is currently available every day from around 6:00 a.m. to midnight and is based upon law enforcement service request trends.

How to Request PERT Services

The community may access a PERT team by contacting law enforcement’s 9-1-1 system in emergencies or calling their local law enforcement agency’s non-emergency phone line. The communication center may dispatch

a PERT team directly. Otherwise, officers/deputies will be dispatched to evaluate the crisis scene and may request a PERT team. If you are told that a PERT team is not available, please request a PERT trained officer/deputy to respond to your call. These officers have attended the PERT Training Academy and have experience responding to persons in mental health crises.

What Happens Once a PERT Team Responds to a Call?

1. The officer/deputy will assess safety for the consumer, the officer, the PERT Clinician, and bystanders.
2. The PERT Clinician assists the consumer by conducting a mental health screening, which may include information from family and other professionals providing care to the consumer.
3. The officer/deputy and PERT Clinician offer referrals or other assistance and, if needed, will assist the individual to the appropriate resource(s).

What Services are not Directly Available from PERT?

Note: Referrals can be provided, however.

- PERT does not provide case management or individual treatment.
- PERT Clinicians do not respond to calls for service without an officer/deputy.
- PERT does not prescribe, deliver or administer medications.

- Staffing limitations do not allow PERT to be available 24-hours a day. If a PERT clinician is not on duty for a particular department, the on-scene officer/deputy may request a PERT unit from a nearby jurisdiction. The officer/deputy may also submit a PERT Referral Form to request a follow-up by that department’s PERT team.
- PERT Clinicians are not Emergency - Hostage Negotiators, but may offer support by accessing and providing relevant mental health history to law enforcement negotiating teams.

Other PERT Services

- PERT trains law enforcement to improve officer ability to identify and effectively intervene with persons living with severe mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and/or substance use disorders. Effective officer intervention with family members and support persons is also part of PERT Academy training.
- PERT participates in community meetings and presentations attended by consumers, family members, and other supportive persons.
- PERT is partnering with Community Paramedics in the Resource Access Program (RAP) as part of a State pilot program serving the Downtown San Diego area.